91. The sanitation of the Challai Bazaar.

Mr. S. Ganpathi Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) said that his ground had been mostly traversed by Mr. S. N. Krishna Iyer. He would therefore mention pointedly a few requirements of the Challai Bazaar. There should be two latrines in the Challai Bazaar. The drains should be flushed twice daily. Though it was reported that flushing *was* being done, the fact was otherwise. During the hot months, *i. e.* from Dhanu to Medom, the roads should be watered. The lights were at present put out at 11 P. M. even in dark nights. They should continue to burn till day-break. The Challai Bazaar was giving enough of money in the shape of house-tax, and with that one item, it should be possible to do all the things suggested by him.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be communicated to the Town Improvement Committee of Trivandrum.

92. The need for reorganising the older Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. C. Sankara Menon, B. A., B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) offered, on behalf of the non-official Members of the Quilon Town Improvement Committee, their sincere thanks for the encouragement given by the Government to the cause of local self-government in the State. Twenty years ago, when the Committees were ushered into existence, only five were created; but today there were nineteen Town Improvement Committees working in the State. All the fourteen additional ones were created during the regime of the present Dewan. In addition to increasing the number of Committees, their powers had also been enlarged. All the older towns and two of the new towns were given the privilege of electing their own representatives on the Committees. The Government had also given a guarantee to continue the grants now made to the Committees for a period of five years. The above concessions and privileges were granted to them as a result of the representations made during the previous sittings of the Assembly. He then begged permission to say a word or two in regard to the adverse remarks against the Government made by a Member on Saturday last. He considered it a duty that he owed to himself, to the Assembly and to the Government. The Assembly—which gave to the Committees the privileges and concessions mentioned above, which did away with the pernicious system of *viruthi* service and saved many a poor family from ruin, which abolished that oppressive system of taxation in kind at great sacrifice of revenue, which gave to the children of a large section of the people, and by no means an unimportant section, a legal status, which gave the people the benefits of free primary education, which had also been steadily elevating the condition of the untouchable and unapproachable classes of people, and which further aimed at broad-basing the administration by associating the people in it and making the bounds of their freedom wider—had been characterised by the Agasteeswaram Member as a "sham". If that *was* a sham, the Member said that he was proud to play any part, even that of a buffoon, in that sham. This institution, born on the auspicious occasion of His Highness the Maha Raja's birthday, christened after his own happy star and nurtured by its chief nurses, the present Dewan and his predecessors, had now been brought to its age of discrimination. He, therefore, felt extremely sorry that the Agasteeswaram Member should have behaved as he did. He was sorry not only because his remarks were uncalled for and untrue; but also because they were certain to cause acute pain to His Highness, who was the parent of the institution, and to the Dewan, its chief nurse, not to speak of the intense sorrow felt by the other Members of the Assembly who heard them. The issues of the Government Gazette during the last five or six years would be a standing monument of the care and anxious consideration which the representations made in the Assembly were receiving at the hands of the Government. He therefore assured the Government, both on his own behalf and on behalf of most of the other Members of the Assembly whom he had consulted, that they did *not* share the views and sentiments expressed by the Agasteeswaram Member. On the other hand, they were satisfied that the Government had all along tried to increase the usefulness of the Assembly and also to raise its tone. All that he would submit was that, for the *healthy* growth of such an institution, pruning, as in the case of a plant, was absolutely necessary.

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Proceeding to his subject, he said that the time had arrived for enlarging the powers of the older Town Improvement Committees, *viz.*, those at Nagercoil, Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey and Kottayam. His first proposal was that the strength of those Committees should be increased to at least 13. The amending Regulation of 1085 did not affect the proportion of non-official members to the official members. In view of the increase in the population and the varied interests involved, it was necessary to increase the number of the non-official members. A few seats should be set apart to represent the trading classes and other interests, and those seats might be either filled by election, or by nomination by the Government. He suggested that the Committees should consist of 9 non-official members—6 members elected by the people and 3 members, who might be elected or nominated, to represent special interests—and 4 official members nominated by the Government. The President ought to be a non-official. With his multifarious and onerous duties, the Dewan Peishkar could not find as much time as he might himself wish to devote to the work of the Committee. He felt sure that proper men would be available for the presidentships in the older towns. It would be a good thing if the services of retired officers of experience could be availed of for the purpose.

In regard to the financial powers, he said that the older Committees had ceased to be minors, being 20 years old, and that they should therefore be given the power of spending their receipts and also the power of taxation. No doubt the Regulation gave them the power of taxation, but that was practically of no use when the Government refused to sanction the Committee's proposals for taxation.

He next suggested that the control of the roads within the limits of T. I. C. towns should be transferred from the P. W. D. to the Committees in the five older towns. If that were done, he was certain that the roads would be maintained in a much better condition than they were at present.

The Member then referred to Section 64 A introduced by the amendment Regulation, II of 1088, and said that it was wholly unworkable. The Committees had little or no power to prevent the exposure or sale of unwholesome food or other articles, and, what was worse, there was the risk of the President having to pay damages to the owners of such articles. The whole power was with the Magistrate. There were several other sections which required amendment. In fact, the Regulation had become very antiquated and did not meet the present day requirements of a civilised town. If a non-official President was to be appointed, the Regulation would have to be first re-enacted. It was impossible for a non-official President to administer a town with the existing defective Regulation. He therefore requested that the amendment of the Regulation might be taken up at once, and he added that the views of the several Committees should also be taken in that connection.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. Action will be taken to re-enact the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation; and the Government hope to make it more effective than it now is, when they re-enact it.

93. The necessity for opening a monthly cattle market in the Krishnapuram pakuthi.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Panickan (Member, T. I. C., Kayenkulam) represented that there was no cattle market in the Krishnapuram *pakuthi* for over 12 miles on any side. The agriculturists of the place suffered much for want of a cattle market. He, therefore, requested that a cattle market under the name of the "Sri Mulam Market" be opened in the *pakuthi* and held on the 17th and 18th of every month. He suggested Survey Nos. 3828, 3829, 3830, 3832 and 3833 in the *pakuthi* as a suitable site for the market.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar will be asked to report about this.

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